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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **ITO, Keita et al.**

Group Art Unit: 3677

Serial No.: **09/901,566.**

Examiner: **LUGO, Carlos**

Filed: **July 11, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **4812**

For. **SEAL STRUCTURE IN ENGINE BODY**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: April 18, 2003

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (AMENDED) A seal structure in an engine body, comprising:
a crankcase which has a crank chamber and which is coupled to a lower end face of a cylinder block having a cylinder bore, the crankcase being comprised of first and second case halves having oppositely facing joint surfaces coupled to each other in a plane extending perpendicular to the lower end face of said cylinder block, wherein one of the joint surfaces of said first and second case halves includes a U-shaped seal groove extending along a peripheral edge of said crank chamber, and wherein enlarged recesses are provided only in the first and second case halves extend laterally from opposite ends of said seal groove to be surrounded by the cylinder block and the first and second case halves;